

Docket: 445440

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, and entry of this Amendment, is respectfully requested. Moreover, the applicants have reviewed the Final Office Action of January 18, 2006, and submit that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 9-32 are pending in the instant Patent Application. Claims 9, 12, 16, 19, and 23 have been amended. Claims 27-32 are newly added. Claims 27-32 are discussed below. Support for these the amendments to claims 9, 12, 16, and 23, and new claims 27-32 is at numerous locations throughout the specification, for example, in drawing figures 4-7. Claim 19 was amended for purposes of clarity, and is directed to formalities only.

II. Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 9-26 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Weber (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,413) (Weber '413).

The present invention is directed to a lawnmower blade or blade assembly with a blade body coupled to a receiver, for receiving a rotating member, such as that from a motor or the like. The receiver, includes a receiving structure for receiving the rotating member, and flexible or holding members, separate from the receiving structure. Additionally, the flexible or holding members include two portions, that are disposed at the opposite ends of each flexible or holding member. One portion is for engaging the rotating member, and the other portion is for receiving pressure, such that when pressure is applied thereon, the engaging portions are moved from a position where they are engaging the rotating member, to a position where the rotating member is disengaged, such that the blade and can be removed from the rotating member, absent tools. As a result of this structure, the holding forces on the rotating member are greater than the rotational forces on the blade, such that when rotating, the blade remains securely engaged on the rotating member for lawn mowing.

Independent claims 9 and 16 include recitations directed to a receiver formed by structures including a receiving portion and flexible members, with the flexible members including structures at one end for engaging the rotating member and at the other or opposite

8 of 10

Response to Office Action Mailed January 18, 2006
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/531,735

CC 1702068v1

Docket: 445440

end, for receiving pressure for moving the engaging structure, out of engagement with the rotating member.

Independent claim 23 is similar to claims 9 and 16, but recites the separateness of the receiving portion and respective flexible members.

Independent claims 12 and 19 recites the two portions of the flexible members, with engaging structures at one end, and pressure receiving structures, at the other or opposite end.

Weber '413 fails to show teach or suggest the claimed structure. Initially, Weber '413 is directed to a device where a single structure, a series of spring clips 13, and not separate structures, are used for engaging and holding the blade 12. It is believed that this structure results rotational forces that are greater than the holding forces, and thus, not suitable for lawn mowing. Moreover, the spring clips 13 (specifically at the point where lead line 13 in Figs. 4 and 5 touches the spring clip 13) are such that the same portion at the same end that engages the hub 14 is the same portion at the same end that is moved outward, to disengage the blade 12 from the hub 14.

Based on the above, Weber '413 does not show the structure recited in claims 9, 12, 16, 19 and 23. Accordingly, claims 9, 12, 16, 19 and 23, are not anticipated by Weber '413 under 35 USC 102(b).

Moreover, since Weber '413 fails to teach or suggest structure that would have holding forces of the blade in the spring clips greater than rotational forces on the blade, it is respectfully asserted that Weber '413 can not render claims 9, 12, 16, 19 and 23 obvious under 35 USC 103(a).

Since claims 9, 12, 16, 19, and 23 are neither anticipated by Weber '413 under 35 USC 102(b), nor obvious in view of Weber '413 under 35 USC 103(a), claims 10 and 11, 13-15, 17 and 18, 20-22, and 24-26, respectively dependent thereon, are also allowable over this cited art for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention from this cited art.

III. New Claims 27-32

Independent claim 27 recites a receiver for receiving a rotatable member, separate from the holding members, for holding the rotatable member in the receiver. As a result of this structure, the holding forces on the blade are greater than the rotational forces on the blade, when

Docket: 445440

the blade is rotating, such that the blade remains securely engaged on the rotating member for lawn mowing.

As discussed above, Weber '413 teaches a single structure for holding a blade, and in no way teaches or suggests separate structures, as this reference is not concerned with holding forces being greater than rotational forces for lawn mowing. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that claim 27 is not shown, taught or suggested by Weber '413, and therefore, is allowable over this reference.

Since claim 27 is allowable over Weber '413, it is respectfully asserted that claims 28-32, dependent thereon are also allowable over the Weber '413 for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention over Weber '413.

IV. Conclusion

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Entry of this paper and allowance of all pending claims, 9-32, is respectfully requested.

The fee of \$395 for the Request for Continued Examination, \$100 for 1 extra independent claim and \$100 for the extra claim fee is enclosed herewith. Applicant believes no other fees are currently due, however, if any fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment and Response, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE, LC

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10 of 10

Response to Office Action Mailed January 18, 2006
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/531,735

CC 1702068v1